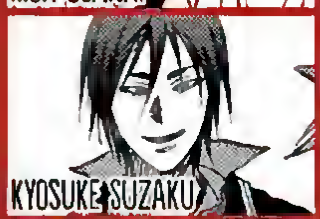
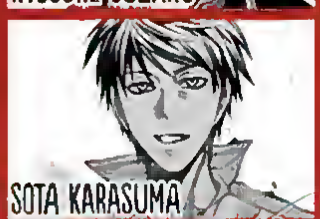
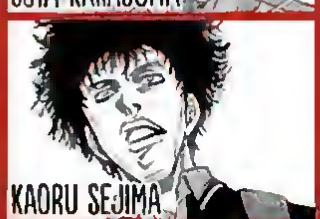
ROBOT×LASERBEAM

BY TADATOSHI FUJIMAKI

Robato Hatohara, a stupidly serious, creepily thorough and socially clueless high school boy, appears to have no interest in anything—including joining his friend Tomoya in the golf club. But when it's discovered that his perfect accuracy and calculations enable him to golf like a practiced professional, will he be able to escape playing golf?





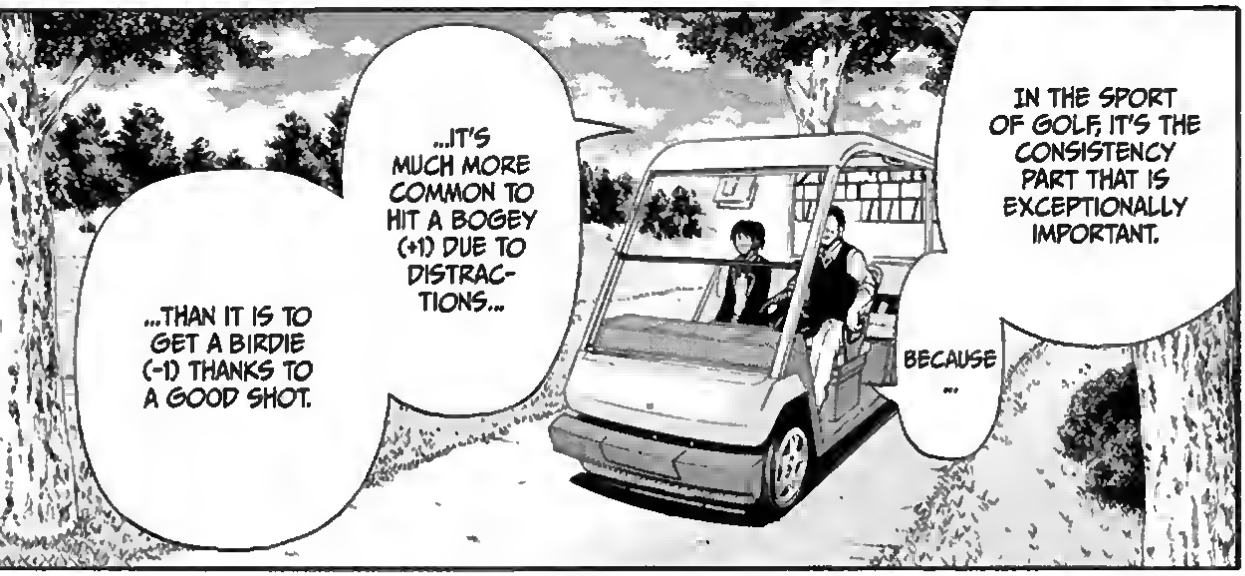


PREVIOUSLY IN *ROBOT×LASERBEAM*:

After Robato Hatohara demonstrates his perfect swing, famous high school golfer Yozan Miura declares him to be his rival! But for their rivalry to actually grow, Robo needs to join the golf club and become a regular. A second-year student and regular, Rion Osanai, takes Robo under his wing to accomplish this goal and help him get a score of 70 before the training camp. Robo survives the athletic training for the team, but his score isn't good enough to compete in the training camp. But then Kyosuke Suzaku, a.k.a. "the Emperor," appears and challenges Robo to play against him in the practice match! The match begins, and Robo is losing by only a little. But then Suzaku hits his ball into what appears to be an impossible-to-recover spot, only to make a perfect lob shot right into the hole! Meanwhile, the second-years gear up for their own matches as Rion tees off against loudmouth Takeshi. But right behind him is the nonchalant, seemingly cool Karasuma and his monstrous opponent Kaoru Sejima. Karasuma is behind on his score, but the Wedge Wizard's got a few tricks up his sleeves and manages to get an eagle. As the match reaches the halfway point, the coach suddenly reveals Robo's score will count in the practice match, putting the entire team at risk of losing!

OF COURSE HE HAS INDIVIDUAL TALENT, BUT...
...IT'S HIS ABILITY TO CONSISTENTLY MAKE PAR EVEN WHEN HE'S NOT AT HIS BEST...
...THAT MAKES HIIRAGI SUCH A GOOD CAPTAIN.

Round 20: The Second Half Begins


IN THE SPORT OF GOLF, IT'S THE CONSISTENCY PART THAT IS EXCEPTIONALLY IMPORTANT.
BECAUSE...
...IT'S MUCH MORE COMMON TO HIT A BOGEY (+1) DUE TO DISTRACTIONS...
...THAN IT IS TO GET A BIRDIE (-1) THANKS TO A GOOD SHOT.

IT'S BECAUSE THEY HAVE HIIRAGI ON THEIR TEAM THAT THE OTHER PLAYERS CAN BE AGGRESSIVE WITHOUT THE FEAR OF MESSING UP.
THAT'S WHY THERE'S NO MORE VALUABLE PLAYER FOR A TEAM...
...THAN ONE WHO CONSISTENTLY MAKES PAR.

AND SO, THE FIRST HALF ENDED.

SO FAR, ALL OF EIAI ACADEMY'S MEMBERS, STARTING WITH KARASUMA AND OSANAI, ARE IN VERY GOOD SHAPE.

AGAINST THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS, TOHOKU INTER-NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL...

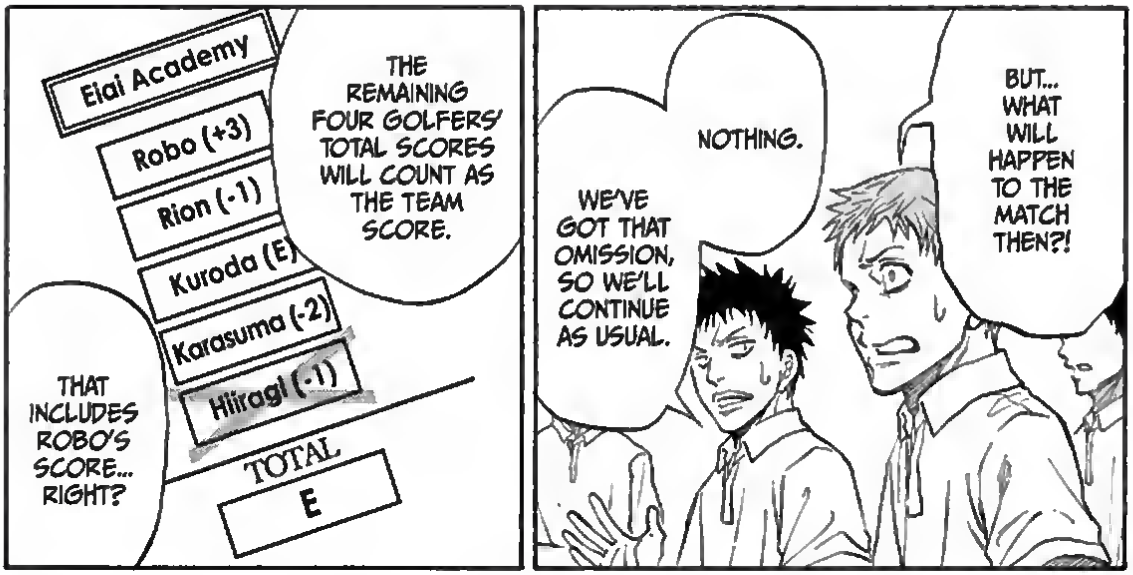
Tohaku International			Eiai Academy
Kyasuke Suzaku	-2	VS	~~+3~~ OMIT Rabata Hatahara
Takeshi Fuwa	-1	VS	-1 Rian Osanai
Tama Kagezawa	E	VS	E Gen Kurada
Daiga Munakata	E	VS	-1 Shintara Hiiragi
Kaaru Sejima	~~+1~~ OMIT	VS	-2 Sata Karasuma
TOTAL	-3		TOTAL -4

...EIAI ACADEMY HEADS INTO THE SECOND HALF WITH A ONE-STROKE LEAD.

BUT...

WHAT...?!

HIIRAGI IS RETIRING FROM THE MATCH.
I'LL SAY IT AGAIN.
MURMUR
MURMUR
HE SHOULDN'T HAVE PUSHED HIMSELF SO HARD AND AGGRAVATED IT DURING A PRACTICE MATCH.
SO THIS IS FAR AS HIIRAGI WILL GO.
HE COMMITTED HIMSELF TO PHYSICAL THERAPY AND IT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE HEALED BY NOW, BUT...
...DURING THE FIRST HALF, SMALL BUT PERCEPTIBLE PROBLEMS BEGAN TO SURFACE.
THE FIRST-YEARS PROBABLY DON'T KNOW, BUT...
...LAST YEAR HIIRAGI HAD SOME TROUBLE WITH HIS LEFT ELBOW.


Eiai Academy
Robo (+3)
Rion (-1)
Kuroda (E)
Karasuma (-2)
Hiiragi (-1)
TOTAL
E
THE REMAINING FOUR GOLFERS' TOTAL SCORES WILL COUNT AS THE TEAM SCORE.
THAT INCLUDES ROBO'S SCORE... RIGHT?
NOTHING.
WE'VE GOT THAT OMISSION, SO WE'LL CONTINUE AS USUAL.
BUT... WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE MATCH THEN?!

IN ORDER TO WIN, THE REMAINING THREE UPPERCLASSMEN WILL HAVE TO MAKE UP THOSE TEN STROKES.
BUT TO BE HONEST, ROBO'S SKILLS ARE AROUND TEN STROKES MORE THAN OTHER PLAYERS.

NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT...IT'S HOPELESS.
THAT'S ALREADY QUITE THE CHALLENGE AGAINST AN AVERAGE TEAM...BUT THEY'RE UP AGAINST THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS— TOHOKU INTERNATIONAL.

I'M SORRY, EVERYONE.
THANK YOU FOR PICKING UP THE SLACK FROM HERE ON OUT.
HAAH...
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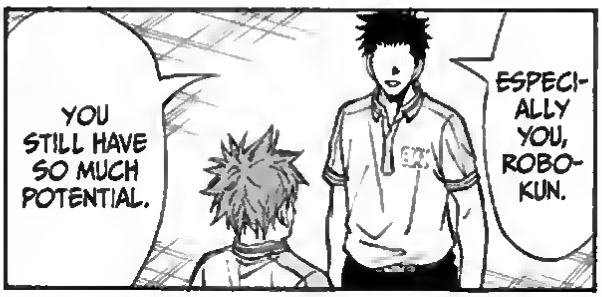
BUT WE HAVEN'T LOST YET.
IT'S TOO EARLY TO THROW IN THE TOWEL.


ESPECIALLY YOU, ROBO-KUN.
YOU STILL HAVE SO MUCH POTENTIAL.

WHETHER WE WIN OR LOSE ALL DEPENDS ON YOU.
SO PLEASE DO YOUR BEST ON MY BEHALF TOO!

SIMPLY BECAUSE HE WANTED TO WIN?
NO... I GET THE FEELING THAT'S NOT QUITE IT.
WHAT I'M PICKING UP FROM HIM IS... REGRET?
BUT WHY?
...MEANS FIGHTING FOR THE HONOR OF EIAI ACADEMY AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL THE CLUB MEMBERS HERE.
BECOMING A REGULAR...
YOU DON'T GET WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A REGULAR AND TO COMPETE.
I'M SURE THAT HIIRAGI-SAN...
...ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO FEELS THIS WAY.
I DON'T KNOW HOW EVERYTHING WORKS YET.
BUT... I SEE NOW.

ALL RIGHT.
I'M AT THREE-OVER (+3) IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE GAME.

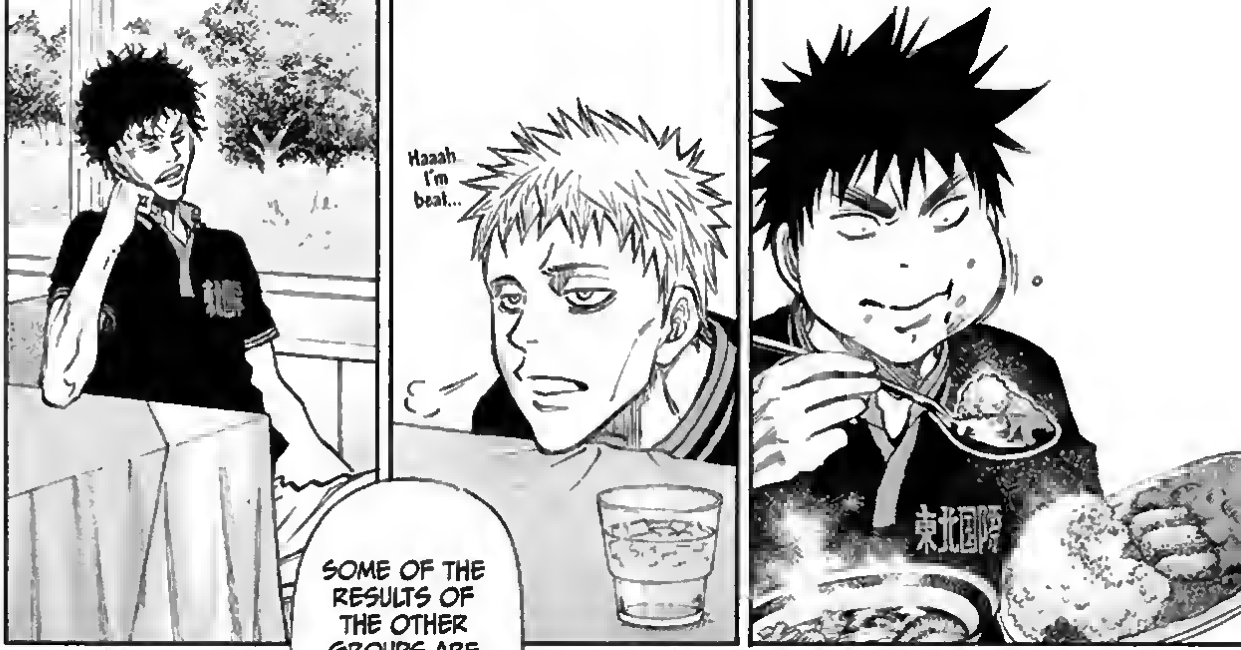
IF I FINISH THE COURSE EVEN PAR...
...IS THERE A CHANCE WE'LL WIN?
HUH?
WELL... YEAH...
There's not that big a difference with my score...

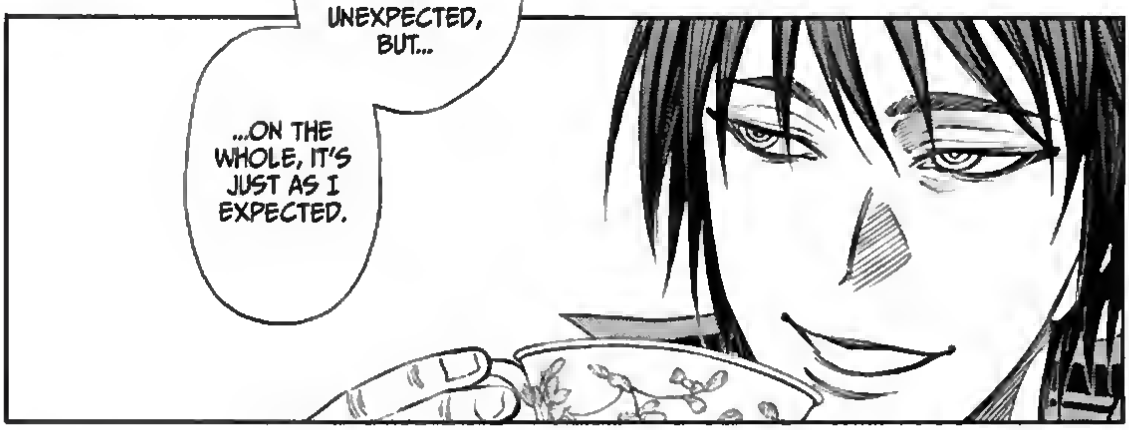
SO IN THE SECOND HALF...
...I'LL SCORE THREE-UNDER (-3).

IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW HARD IT IS TO GET THREE-UNDER IN JUST THE LAST HALF?
WHAT THE HECK, ROBO? YOU'RE GOING TO SCORE TEN SHOTS BETTER THAN YOUR BEST ROUND?!
ふっ!
BFFT
WHAT?!

...WE WANT TO WIN, RIGHT?
HUH?
BUT...
WOW... I'M DUMB-FOUNDED HEARING THAT FROM A TOTAL NEWB.
HEH ...!
I JUST FIGURED THAT IF IT'S GOING TO BE HARD FOR THE UPPER-CLASSMEN TO EXTEND THEM-SELVES EVEN MORE THAN THEY ALREADY HAVE...
...THEN I HAVE TO EXTEND MYSELF.
He means well.

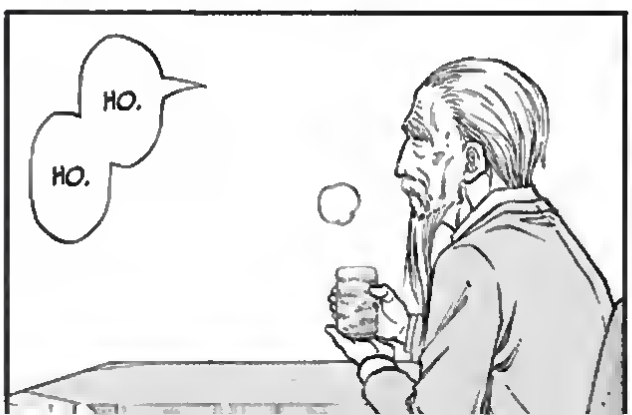
DON'T WORRY, HIIRAGI.
OH, SHUT UP! YOU'RE THE BIGGEST DRAG ON THE TEAM, SO DON'T GO TALKING ALL BIG!
OW!
?
ボコ
BONK
YEAH...
THE TEAM JUST GOT A WHOLE LOT MORE...
... PROM-ISING.
OKAY, I GUESS.
HEY, SUZAKU.
HOW'RE YOU FEELING?


Haaah I'm beat...
東北国際

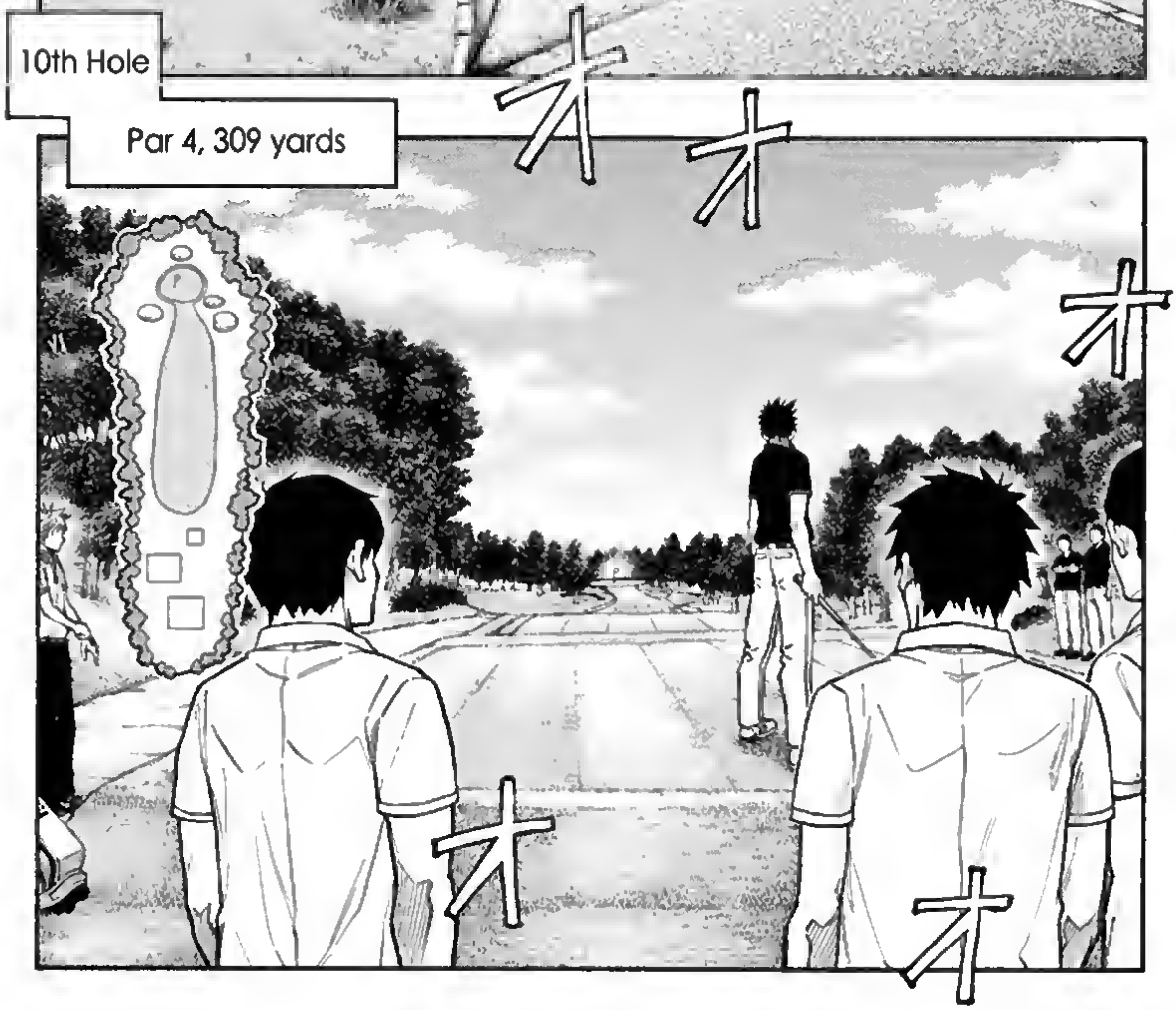

SOME OF THE RESULTS OF THE OTHER GROUPS ARE A BIT UNEXPECTED, BUT...
...ON THE WHOLE, IT'S JUST AS I EXPECTED.

HM?
BY THE WAY, I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THE SECOND HALF.

IT'S A PITY HIIRAGI-KUN HAD TO PULL OUT, BUT... THAT WON'T CHANGE THE RESULTS.
IT ONLY MEANS THE MATCH WILL BE A LITTLE MORE BORING.


HO.
HO.

WOOO
THE SECOND HALF BEGINS...


10th Hole
Par 4, 309 yards

What about group 1 with Suzaku and Robo?
WE'RE GROUP 2, SO WHY ARE WE STARTING OFF THE SECOND HALF?
HM?
HEY... WAIT A SECOND.

YOU'RE KIDDING ME.
HOW SELFISH CAN THAT PERVERTED EMPEROR BE?
WHEN WE REACH THE 18TH HOLE, HE REALLY WANTS HIS GROUP TO BE THE CENTER OF ATTENTION!
Robo-Suzoku Group 1
Rion-Fuwa Group 2
Kurada-Kagezawa Group 3
(Hiiragi)-Munakata Group 4
Karasuma-Sejima Group 5
WAH HA HA! SORRY!
THIS WAS JUST SUZAKU'S WHIM!

IT'S ALL RIGHT.
HE'S THE TYPE WHO JUST DOES WHATEVER HE WANTS.
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THIS.

HFF

THIS GUY'S... ENERGY IS NOTHING LIKE IN THE FIRST HALF...

WELL, LET'S JUST PUT ALL THE TRIVIAL DETAILS ASIDE!
AND GET THIS THING GOING!

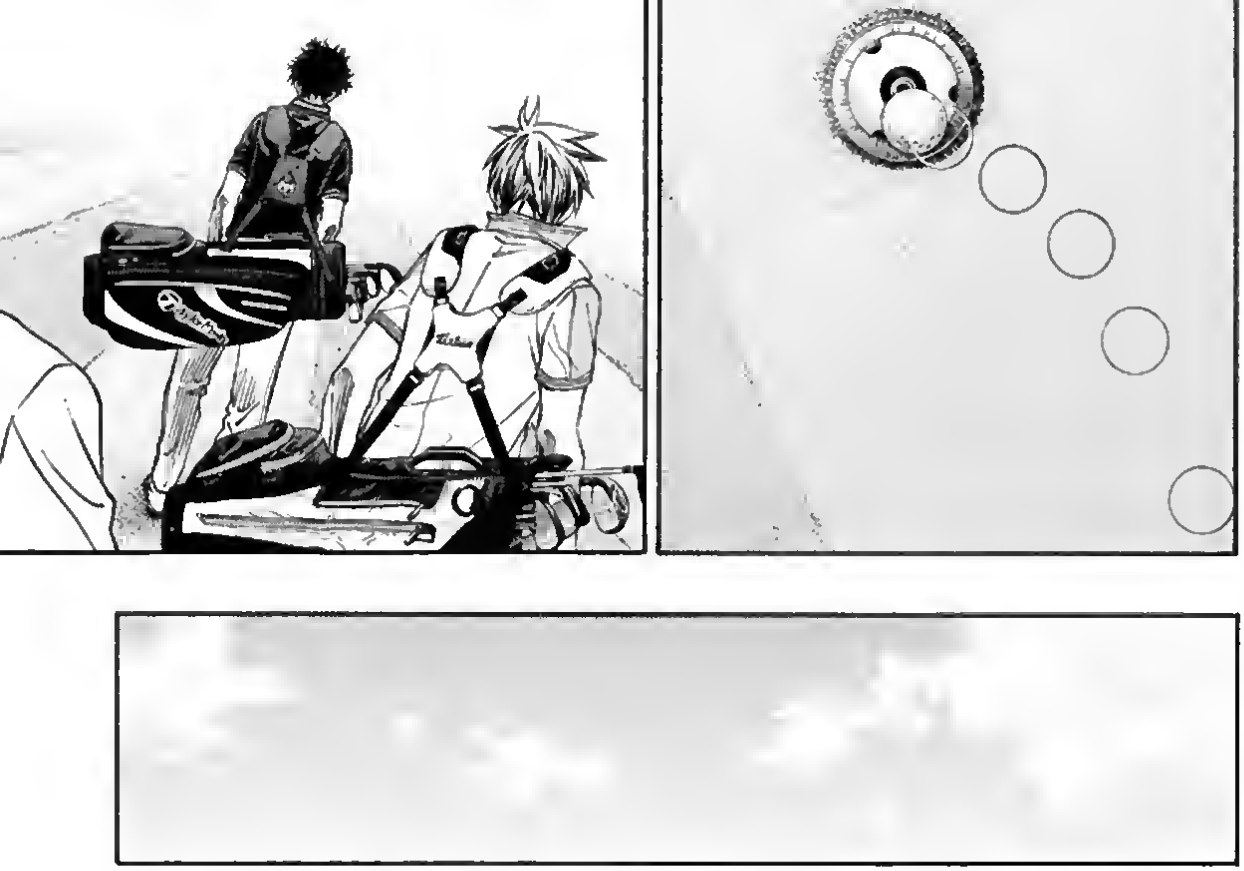
HIYAAAH!!
THOK
TOO LOUD.
So he's still yelling...
STILL, THIS IS..!

THERE'S FUWA'S SUPER HOOK SHOT!!
WAH!
AND THIS IS...
AAW, YEAH!
GET ON THERE!!
HE'S SUDDENLY GOING FOR A GREEN UNDER REGULATION ON HIS SECOND SHOT?
GREEN UNDER REGU-LATION?
ON A PAR 4 IT USUALLY TAKES TWO SHOTS TO GET THE BALL ON THE GREEN. HE'S TRYING TO GET THERE IN ONE!
ZWOOSH
ウワァ

BUT IF YOU DO SUCCEED, IT'S A SUPER SHOT THAT MAKES IT SO YOU CAN AIM FOR AN EAGLE OR A BIRDIE!
BUT EVEN SHORTER PAR 4 HOLES ARE USUALLY OVER 300 YARDS.
IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE DISTANCE AND ACCURACY TO AIM FOR THAT, YOU WON'T SUCCEED.
THUD

WAAAH!
HE GOT A GREEN UNDER REGULA-TION!
WOW! IT'S ON!
RAWR
YEAAAH!!

HE'S NOT ALL BARK... HE'S GOT BITE TOO!
THIS GUY...
HE'S STARTING TO ACT LIKE A NATIONAL CHAMPION REGULAR NOW!


THEY REALLY ARE THE BEST.
I'VE GOT TO ADMIT, THIS IS TOUGH.
WELL, WELL ...
...!
GEH...
I ALSO HATE GIVING UP, BUT...
...I REALLY AM SPEECHLESS.
IT CAN'T BE...

THEY'VE ALL SUCCEEDED IN GETTING GREEN UNDER REGULATIONS...
...GIVING FOUR OF THEM BIRDIES AND ONE EAGLE.
THEY JUST COLLECTIVELY GOT SIX UNDER PAR ON THIS HOLE!!
TO BE CONTINUED...
WHOAAAA
THE EMPEROR'S DONE IT!
A GREEN UNDER REGULATION AND THEN AN EAGLE!!